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## **Free Training Seminar Helps Address Homelessness in Lake County**

WAUKEGAN, IL – The Lake County Coalition for the Homeless is sponsoring a free training seminar on Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> for social service providers, businesses and other community members interested in addressing homelessness in Lake County. Trainers from the Center for Excellence in Service Organizations (CESO) will conduct a three-hour training covering advocacy strategies for the homeless and staff and client motivation.

Training will take place from 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon at Catholic Charities, 671 South Lewis Avenue, Waukegan. Please RSVP soon because training is limited to 50 registrants. Call Clara Weldon at 847.244.9944 to register.

At any given time, an estimated 1,100 persons are homeless in Lake County. Approximately 60% are single individuals, while 40% are persons in families with children.

The most common factors contributing to homelessness in Lake County include earnings that have not kept pace with the rising cost of housing, limited transportation opportunities to get to work, mental illness and substance abuse.

Among the greatest needs of homeless persons are case management, substance abuse treatment and mental health care.

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## **Free training seminar helps address homelessness in Lake County – 2 of 2**

To address homelessness, Lake County facilitates the Advisory Planning Group (APG), which is composed of social service providers, funding agencies, local governments and other community members interested in homelessness. The APG identifies homeless needs, assesses the current inventory of services and develops a strategic Continuum of Care Plan to eliminate duplication of services, reduce fragmentation and provide the necessary linkages to move people from the streets and emergency shelters to permanent supportive housing.

The APG also works closely with the Lake County Coalition for the Homeless, whose mission is to eliminate homelessness in Lake County through the provision of leadership in the areas of assessment, advocacy and community education.

Current projects include Lake County's computerized Homeless Management Information System that allows homeless service agencies to conduct automated referrals, joint service planning and share client information. The Lake County Helping Hands website, [www.helpinghandslake.org](http://www.helpinghandslake.org), offers a searchable information and referral system to find available services, contact information, eligibility requirements and other information about available services.

PADS Crisis Services is working to develop the county's first fixed-site, year round emergency shelter. The Lake County Health Department, Independence Center and Lake County Residential Development Corporation are developing new permanent supportive housing for the homeless, and A Safe Place and Emmaus House are developing new transitional housing programs for the homeless.

For additional information on homelessness in Lake County, contact Rob Anthony of the Lake County Department of Planning, Building and Development at 847.377.2152.